February 14, 1975

going to be an attempt to rush you into solutions. suggest you not be rushed into any kind of solution as far as appropriations are concerned. The third place, we are in such a mess, as far as legislative bill 403 is concerned, that I . . . and I'm not accusing Senator Goodrich of anything, but I suggest that you folks take a look at these bills and at the fiscal impact before you vote on them. You have not been doing this. When it comes to the legislative bill that's before us take a look for a moment on page 3, at your leisure, page 2 and see the wording that is crossed out. Now all that wording does, as far as I'm concerned if I understand the bill properly, is to open up once again the language in legislative bill 403. Everybody who voted on that bill a couple years ago is guilty of approving language that is so open it's almost unworkable. In addition to that the Department of Education has refused to assert it's authority and pass rules and regulations that make any sense, so that you are deluged with phone calls and letters from educators, including those from educational service units that say in affect what. The language that this Legislature insists on passing, and that the Department of Education refuses to acknowledge, is so general, so confusing that many of these E.S.U.'s are going to foldup shop. I don't think that this Legislature, at the moment with the fiscal bind that the country and this state is in plus the fact that we're in a delimma specifically in regard to 403, have any right in fairness to educators, in fairness to students to pass anymore legislation that opens it up from where it is now. All I can do is to stand up here in an attempt to point out some of the particular problems involved. I would suggest to you that the chairman of the Education Committee is going to call a meeting this afternoon with members of the Department of Education. The Appropriations Committee has had two or three meetings with the heads of the Department of Education and we still do not have any solution to the problems that affect special education. There have been two payments passed out from the Department of Education. As near as I can tell, and Senator Clark spent more time than I have in this area, the first payment was made without adequate information. The second payment is so fouled up that there are many school districts that have been overpaid. Someplace along the line we're going to have to sit down and, as some people sit in this Legislature, bit the bullet on this. When you bit the bullet you don't pass legis-lation that opens it up more than it is now. I guess, Senator Goodrich, I put myself in a position of supporting Senator Frank Lewis in an attempt to hold this legislation up until we put some sense into law and that the Department of Education puts some sense into the rules and regulations so that people in this Legislature and elsewhere who are interested in fair administration of the handicapped have a chance to do something with decent, legitimate programs. We certainly don't do it at the moment.